

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00319 231726Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 IGA-02 EB-08

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/084 W

-----231729Z 058905 /43

R 230801Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4678

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, PFOR, SHUM, RW

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: POSSIBLE AFRICAN COLLOQUIUM IN RWANDA

REF: STATE 060181 (NOTAL)

1. IT IS RARE THAT ANOTHER GOVERNMENT COMES FORWARD WITH A HELPFUL INITIATIVE ON A SUBJECT AS PRICKLY AS HUMAN RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT IS SO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES (REFTEL). THUS, EVEN IF RWANDA MAY BE SUSPECTED OF SEEKING TO CURRY U.S. FAVOR WITH ITS PROPOSED AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM, IT DESERVES CREDIT FOR PLACING ITSELF ON THE SIDE OF THE "GOOD GUYS" THIS TIME.

2. HOSTING SUCH A COLLOQUIUM POSES SOME CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS FOR GOR: NOT ONLY WILL IT AGAIN APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING U.S. LEAD IN EYES OF ITS AFRICAN PEERS; IT ALSO HAS ITS OWN BIT OF DIRTY HUMAN-RIGHTS LINEN (SEE KIGALI'S 106) WHICH IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE WASHED IN PUBLIC. NEVERTHELESS, RWANDA'S CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IS CERTAINLY BETTER THAN MOST OTHER AFRICAN

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00319 231726Z

COUNTRIES'; PRES. HABYARIMANA HAS A CERTAIN PURITANICAL STREAK AND MISSIONARY ZEAL ABOUT HIM, AND GOR MAY HAVE DECIDED THIS IS A CAUSE ON WHICH IT COULD GENUINELY PRESUME TO TAKE THE LEAD AMONG AFRICANS.

3. PERSONALLY, I SEE MUCH TO BE GAINED FROM SUCH A COLLOQUIUM. I HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY WORRIED LATELY THAT OUR HUMAN

RIGHTS THRUST IS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD AMONG LDC'S, SOME OF WHOM SEE IT AS AN IMPERIOUS ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE OUR OWN VALUES WHERE THEY ARE NOT RELEVANT. AND I BELIEVE WE OURSELVES TEND TO UNDERESTIMATE HUMAN RIGHTS "TRADE-OFFS" WHICH AFRICANS SOMETIMES FEEL COMPELLED TO MAKE IN FAVOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. COLLOQUIUM OF THE SORT PROPOSED WOULD ENCOURAGE AFRICANS TO COME TO GRIPS SERIOUSLY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND TAKE STOCK OF PROBLEMS THEY HAVE PREFERRED TO PASS OVER IN SILENCE; AND IT WOULD PROVIDE US IN TURN WITH BETTER INSIGHTS INTO HOW FAR OUR VALUES IN FACT CONVERGE WITH AFRICANS'.

4. RESIDUAL HUTU-TUTSI TENSIONS COULD OF COURSE BE EXACERBATED BY SUCH AN EVENT, WITH HARMFUL EFFECTS BOTH INTERNALLY AND ON RWANDA-BURUNDI RELATIONS. BUT GIVEN GOR'S APPARENTLY SINCERE EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE ITS OWN ETHNIC MINORITY AND TO MAINTAIN CORRECT RELATIONS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT IN BURUNDI, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD DELIBERATELY PROVOKE PROBLEMS BY MEANS OF SUCH A COLLOQUIUM.

5. IN SUM, I'M AMAZED BY RWANDANS' INITIATIVE, I RECOMMEND WE GIVE IT OUR DISCREET BUT WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT, AND I BELIEVE AMB. KARUHIJE DESERVES A WORD OF RECOGNITION FOR HAVING DREAMED IT UP. FOREGOING ASSUMES KARUHIJE IN FACT OPERATING WITH GOR BLESSING AND USG CONCURRENCE WOULD NOT BE USED AFTER FACT TO SELL PROJECT TO KIGALI. UNFORTUNATELY, INJUNCTION AGAINST DISCUSSING WITH GOR PREVENTS OUR ESTABLISHING WHETHER THIS THE CASE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR USG TO GIVE FULL CONCURRENCE WITHOUT BEING SURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00319 231726Z

GOR FULLY SUPPORTS INITIATIVE.

6. REQUEST REFTEL BE REPEATED USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG. CRIGLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KIGALI00319  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770099-1031  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 60181  
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**TAGS:** OCON, PFOR, SHUM, RW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009